

“When TI was launched in 1993, none of its founders could have anticipated how quickly it would have been accepted.” Indeed. But TI was not created in May 1993 in Villa Borsig in Berlin, as the official literature claims. It had existed, *de facto*, since 1989.

While Prince Philip had been holding his “interfaith dialogue” on economy and ethics (TI’s “theology”) since 1984, Eigen began to plot the operational side of things at least since 1989. At that time, the future chairman of TI was the World Bank representative in Kenya. This was the moment of the definitive collapse of the Soviet empire, the fall of the Berlin Wall. The British control over the continent of Africa was in danger of evaporating. Many political and industrial forces, both in continental Europe and in the United States, saw this as the moment they had been waiting for to undertake huge investments in Africa’s infrastructure, industry, and agricul-

ture. Italy, for example, had ready a gigantic infrastructure plan, supported by the political leadership. The British were determined not only to reverse such tendencies, but to reconquer “their” colonies.

In this context, the World Bank issued the study so dear to Eigen, “Sub-Saharan Africa, From Crisis to Sustainable Growth—A Long-Term Perspective Study.” Its slogan was: “Support good governance!” Against the possibility of real development, they built the new wall of “sustainable growth,” and the scheme of hypocritical “good governance” aimed at destroying any force that tried to resist.

Then the plot took off. Eigen recalls: “In the spring of 1990, representatives of the World Bank stationed in Africa met in Swaziland to discuss an urgent request articulated by African leaders in their famous ‘Support better governance.’ As the World Bank representative in Kenya, I agreed to talk

TI boasts: We toppled Benazir Bhutto!

On July 31, 1997, Transparency International announced the release of its third annual Corruption Perception Index (CPI). In the official release, it boasts of its role in overthrowing the government of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto last year. Bhutto, the release says, was dismissed thanks to the publication of the 1996 CPI.

The Corruption Perception Index, a list of countries targetted for blackmail by international financial institutions, was, according to TI, “developed by Dr. Johann Graf Lambsdorf from the Göttingen University. . . . The 1997 CPI is the most up-to-date and reliable index on corruption so far. . . . The index, issued at a time of growing public concern about corruption throughout the world, is based on seven international surveys of business people, political analysts and the general public and reflects their *perception* of corruption in 52 countries.”

Stressing its blackmail potential—a country can be ostracized thanks to the index—TI Chairman Peter Eigen stated that the index is “a measure of lost development opportunities. . . . An empirical link has now been established between the level of corruption and foreign direct investments.”

TI gives some examples that are supposed to prove how easily TI can destroy political leaders. The first example is Pakistan. The following are quotes from the release:

“Bhutto: ‘The most honest administration in Pakistan’s history. . . .’ The impact of the index was perhaps greatest in Pakistan. The anger of people in Pakistan over their government’s participation in rampant corruption was catalyzed by Pakistan’s position as second-worst in the world table. Suddenly, this anger became focussed, accompanied by the bitter feeling that Pakistan had ‘deserved better’ from their political elite. The reaction to the index in Pakistan was remarkable: Embassy and opposition party representatives visited TI in Berlin to ask clarification. Many Pakistanis contacted TI, which promoted the creation of a network in Pakistan and made TI a household name, as the extensive media coverage and the 300 leading citizens who crowded out a TI-Pakistan seminar in Karachi showed. Many speakers stated that the index had contributed to the downfall of the notoriously corrupt Bhutto administration.

“It was the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, after all, who had erupted angrily when the index was referred to in parliament claiming that hers was ‘the most honest administration in Pakistan’s history.’. . . *Only days later she was dismissed* from office by the President who was reportedly influenced in his decision to act by Ms. Bhutto’s wholly irrational response to the index. Ms. Bhutto lost the ensuing elections in a landslide. The new TI National Chapter is targeting public procurement and working independently with the new government to reduce levels of corruption which have plagued Pakistan.”

Other examples cited by TI of how to target recalcitrant countries include Malaysia and Argentina. The country at the bottom of the 1997 index is Nigeria.